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FOR NEA/ARP

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/10/2027

TAGS: PREL ASEC LE QA SA IR IZ IS KU

SUBJECT: MINISTER SAYS GCC CRISIS MANAGEMENT CENTER TO BE ESTABLISHED IN KUWAIT

REF: A. KUWAIT 1094

¶B. KUWAIT 1072

Classified By: Ambassador Richard LeBaron for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (C) Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Shaykh Sabah Al-Khalid Al-Sabah told the Ambassador on July 9 that agreement had been reached at the recent GCC meeting of defense and foreign ministers and national security chiefs on establishing a GCC crisis management center in Kuwait. He credited Kuwait's foreign minister with convincing the initially reluctant Qataris to agree to the center's location in Kuwait rather than Doha and noted the importance of the support of Prince Muqrin, Saudi Arabia's Director General of Intelligence. According to the minister, Kuwait will prepare a paper for the December GCC summit that will set out the specifics of the center. As for the motivation behind creating the center, the minister said the recent GCC security meeting had covered the various crises in the region (Lebanon, Palestine, Iraq, Iran) and had convinced the members that they needed further coordination to deal with regional challenges. He cited the cooperation between several GCC countries, Turkey, Egypt, and Jordan to support Sunni participation in Iraq's elections as an earlier example of the importance of the countries in the region working together to manage potential crises.

¶2. (C) Comment: The purpose, details, and staffing of such a center are not yet clear. As work progresses, we may be able to offer some technical advice on specifications for effective crisis management centers. We did not hear anything about such a center in read-outs from the Defense and Foreign Ministers. End Comment.

Bio Note

¶3. (SBU) While MOSAL does not have a direct relationship with national security issues, Shaykh Sabah Al-Khalid is a member of Kuwait's National Security Council. He is also the former president of the National Security Bureau. He therefore is well-connected to the national security community and follows national security issues closely.

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LeBaron